- Production of planting materials through Departmental Nurseries and Certified nurseries by growers with the assistance of the Board.
- Cardamom Replanting Scheme; Rs 9,000/- per hq. subsidy
- Water Harvesting Scheme; 25-50% subsidy.
- Improved cardamom curing devices; 33.33% subsidy.
- Rain Water Harvesting Scheme; 33.33% subsidy.

Steps to Increase Rubber Production

3363. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rubber output is very less compared to consumption;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken to increase rubber output;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. The production of Natural Rubber (NR) has been increasing. However, the consumption of NR is also on the increase and at times it outpaces production. During the year 2005-06, the production of NR has been slightly more than consumption.

(b) to (d) The Govt, of lndia through the Rubber Board is implementing the Ruber Plantation Development Scheme to increase the production and productivity of NR in the country. Under the scheme, financial incentives and technical assistance is provided for new planting and replanting. Rubber cultivation has been extended to non-traditional regions and a separate scheme for the development of Rubber Plantations in the North Eastern Region is also being implemented.

Tea/Coffee Plantation in Assam

3364. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan a series of initiatives to boost tea/coffee